

**April 27, 2018**

**Dear 8<sup>th</sup> grade students,**

**The end of the school year is rapidly approaching. There is a lot to look forward to including Advisory Pride Week, and of course, summer vacation!**

**The June 7, 2018, Valediction Assembly includes a farewell speech given by a student in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a wonderful and exciting opportunity to address your classmates and relive some of your shared experiences at Washington Latin.**

**If you would like to learn more about this speaking opportunity, please get a hand-out from Ms. Breitman or Ms. Haywood and plan on attending a brief meeting on Monday or Tuesday, April 30 or May 1 at tutorial. Please be sure to come at 3:15 to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade English classroom.**

**Sincerely,**

**Ms. Breitman and Ms. Haywood**

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SPEAKER SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE 2018 WLPCS VALEDICTION**

### **I. Any student who would like to audition and compete to deliver a speech at valediction must meet the following criteria:**

- Is a student with a minimum of 2.5 grade point average and in a position to be promoted to 9<sup>th</sup> grade in June.
- Is polite to peers and staff at the school.
- Is involved in the life of the school outside the classroom.
- Is a positive role model.
- Is able to deliver an appropriate and inspirational speech, on behalf of **all** grade 8 students.

### **II. How are Candidates finalized?**

A committee of 8<sup>th</sup> grade staff will ensure all students meet the above criteria. A student who does not meet the criteria will be eliminated.

### **III. Candidate Meeting is Required with Sponsor Teachers**

Two 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers act as sponsors, Ms. Breitman and Ms. Haywood. They will meet with all candidates and review the process and the responsibilities of a school speaker. At this time students must decide if they wish to continue.

The meetings will take place on Monday, and Tuesday, April 30 and May 1 during tutorial in the English classroom. You must attend one meeting either at 3:15 pm on the designated dates or **make an arrangement to meet at a mutually agreeable time with the sponsor teachers**.

### **IV. Submission Process**

- Each candidate must submit a double-spaced typed copy of his or her speech no later than 4:00 on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Submission can be done in one of three ways:
  1. Submit a typed copy to **Ms. Breitman or Ms. Haywood**
  2. Submit an electronic document in "Word" format and transmit it to Ms. Breitman by email: [rbreitman@latinpcs.org](mailto:rbreitman@latinpcs.org) or Ms. Haywood by email: [chaywood@latinpcs.org](mailto:chaywood@latinpcs.org)
  3. Share the speech with one of the sponsors on the Google Drive.

- Each candidate must also submit a completed and signed copy of the **WLPCS Student Speaker Agreement** at the time that you submit your speech.
- The Student Speaker Agreement document must be received in non-electronic format by 4:00 on Monday, May 14th. You need to hand-deliver it to one of the sponsor teachers.
- Your speech will be reviewed by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Selection Committee.

## **V. Presentation to Selection Committee**

On Tuesday, May 15th, the candidates will make a presentation to the committee at lunch recess and voting will take place thereafter by the committee.

The chosen speaker will be announced on Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> and will work with sponsor teachers to develop the speech, using the following guidelines:

- Is written using appropriate language (no profanity, vulgarity etc.)
- Represents all grade 8 students, honoring their successes over the middle school years and especially the past year
- May provide a historical perspective (how you have learned to appreciate and embrace the evolving identities of the school)
- Addresses the future (what values will you take with you, what tools have you developed, what experiences will allow you to achieve your goals)
- May include reference to peers, staff and family (how has the class grown, overcome challenges, bonded as a community)

The speech should be between three and four minutes in length. The speaker is expected to deliver the speech at valediction in a clear fashion, mostly from memory, with minimal use of notes.

## **VI. Speech Revision and Preparation Obligations**

Once a finalist has been selected, the chosen speaker must agree to work with the sponsor teachers after school or in a manner that is acceptable to the sponsor teachers, complete all proposed revisions, and to practice the speech in its final form no later than Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

After June 1st all submitted speeches are final – no revisions or additions can be made without written consent by one of the sponsor teachers.

## WLPCS Student Speaker Agreement

*(Read carefully, sign and submit with your speech)*

**In submitting a speech for consideration for the 2018 Valediction, I agree to the following:**

- I have read the speaker guidelines and understand them.
- I am aware of the serious commitment I am making by competing for this honor and intend to carry out my responsibilities fully.
- I pledge to abide by all of the deadlines and terms.
- I agree that the decision of the committee is final.
- The speech I submitted is my own original work.
- The school may reproduce the speech in any format and attribute it to you.
- The speech that I submitted and revised with my sponsor teacher(s) will be the one presented at the valediction if chosen. To edit, change or alter the speech after June 1st without the written consent of the sponsor teachers will result in disciplinary measures, possibly causing a delay in receipt of a diploma.
- If my speech is chosen, I agree to meet with sponsor teachers or others designated by them in order to practice the speech and to review ceremony procedures.
- I also agree to be present at the June 7, 2018, Valediction Assembly **one hour early and** meet with sponsor teachers to review any changes or modifications to the ceremony.
- Any conduct that occurs prior to the current school year that results in a code of conduct violation, disciplinary referral, detention, or suspension will cause a revocation of consideration of my speech for delivery at the 2018 Valediction.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_